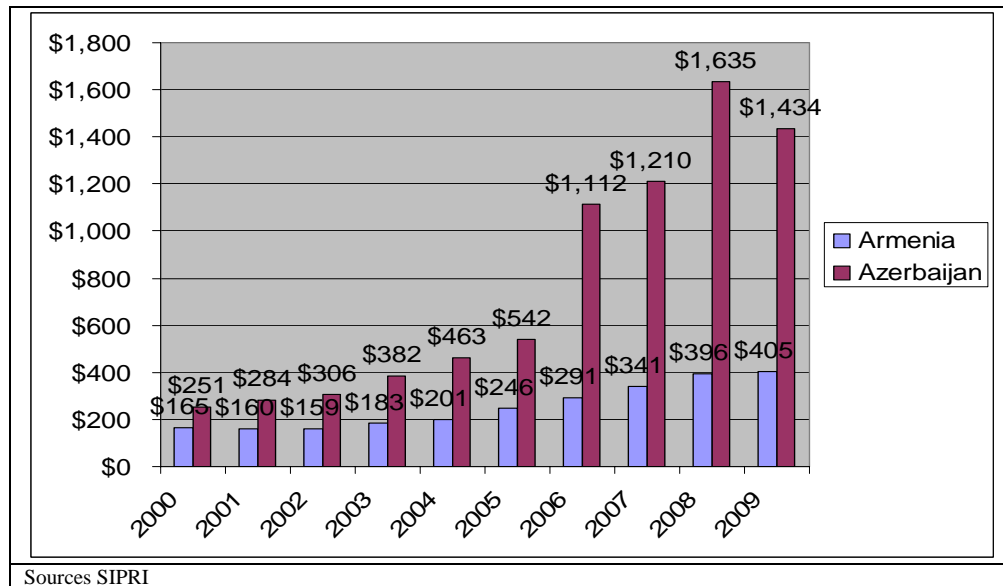




# Armenian Assembly of America *FACT SHEET*

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## **AZERBAIJAN'S MILITARY EXPENDITURES**



## **AZERBAIJAN MARCHES TO WAR AGAINST ARMENIANS...AGAIN**

- “This is the last chance for Armenia... for the sake of its own future and its own security,” – **President Ilham Aliyev, July 9, 2010** [Turan News (AZ)].
- Immediately following the June 17 meeting between the Presidents of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Russia, an Azeri military unit attacked a Karabakh defense post resulting in the death of 4 Karabakh soldiers.
- “The use of military force [by Azerbaijan], particularly at this moment, can only be seen as an attempt to damage the peace process” – **OSCE Minsk Group Statement, June 21, 2010**.
- “Now it is up to the military, and this danger is gradually approaching...the start of a great war in the South Caucasus is inevitable” – **Defense Minister Safar Abiyev, February 25, 2010** [Reuters].
- “I believe that in the context of an overall increase in government spending, defense spending should be increased from 1.3 billion to 2 billion in 2008” – **President Ilham Aliyev, April 15, 2008** [Reuters].

## **AZERBAIJAN'S AUTHORITARIAN RULE & RECORD ON HUMAN RIGHTS**

- “President Ilham Aliyev consolidated his authoritarian rule with a March 2009 referendum that eliminated presidential term limits” – **Freedom House Report on Freedom in the World - Azerbaijan, 2010**.
- “As of January 1, 2009, foreign radio broadcasts—including the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL), and Voice of America—were banned from Azerbaijan’s airwaves” – **Freedom House Report on Freedom in the World - Azerbaijan, 2010**.

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